

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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SECURITY INFORMATION

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1. The question now on everyone's lips is what will happen and when. Everyone feels that a change must take place. The Polish population is certain that the present state of world affairs cannot continue for long, but it feels that a change does not depend only on Stalin's successor but that it requires the assistance of the West. If the West fails to do its share, Russian imperialism, which hides under the cover of world communism, will attract many adherents who will join forces with it in desperation and as a way out of the present intolerable situation.
2. The death of Stalin has brought about a feeling of relief in Poland. Poles have shown their joy publicly, and the UB (Security Police) has closed its eyes to these manifestations. The leaders of the organized public meetings honoring Stalin tried to convey a feeling of sadness, but their voices rang false in contrast to the happy atmosphere reigning in the audiences. Larger numbers attended these meetings than any previous meetings, and the population is more filled with energy and hope than it has been before.
3. The government is observing the situation, and in order not to give the population time for thought or meditation on the results which follow upon the death of Stalin, the government has exhorted the Polish population in all possible ways to achieve new quotas and to make new pledges in honor of Stalin. Pledges of this kind were voted unanimously a long time ago but they will not have any effect against the unwritten unpublicized watchword which is adhered to very conscientiously by everyone and everywhere. This watchword is as follows:

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"Work slowly, never attain the quotas since they are all impossible of attainment without destruction of your health, and since you receive nothing from them, because everything is sent and will continue to be sent, in return for nothing, to the bottomless pit of the Soviet Union." It can be assumed as a certain fact that none of the quotas set up in production planning will be fulfilled, and if an industry is said to have attained its quotas, it will be the production of government propaganda and not of reality.

4. Following the death of Stalin many people reacted by drinking, singing, and by starting fights with other Poles or occasionally with UB men. But there has been no action on the part of the underground, at least in the area of Szczecin (Stettin).
5. The death of Stalin has occasioned what may possibly be premature joy, and this has been demonstrated by the Polish people in various ways. In Gdynia the population began talking about the underground, the "forest people", and resistance against Communism and the Soviet Union, since it is felt that the day of early liberation is already approaching. None of the population has shown any signs of mourning and no one has even been concerned about making a false show of one. The numerous meetings which were arranged in Stalin's honor were more heavily attended than previous meetings, the reason being that the audiences wanted to hear officially that the "anti-Christ" no longer lived. Even Polish Communists were happy and expressed happiness.
6. Some persons who were more sanguine and less patient translated their feelings into action. On 9 March, at the main railroad station at Gdansk (Danzig), a UB group loaded about 23 arrested men onto a train in order to transport them to the prison at Wejherowo. A small group of men, which referred to itself as the underground, attacked the UB group, killed two UB men, wounded several others, but due to the small numbers of the attackers one of their men was killed and they were forced to leave his body behind, although they succeeded in removing his personal documents and weapons. The luckiest of those involved were the arrested men, since they were able to use the disturbance to escape. Source stated that it was, of course, forbidden to talk about this incident, and that no written mention was made of it.
7. The death of Stalin has caused a feeling of relief among the population in Ustka (Stożymowice), but the big question is whether any hope for a better future can be held out, and whether the Western powers will come to the aid of the Polish population in overthrowing the oppressors.
8. Following the death of Stalin, a kind of uncertainty reigns in all Polish government offices and among Polish Communists; this is not fear, however. Poles believe that something will happen, but they do not, of course, know what it will be or when it will take place. Since the death of Stalin, government propaganda has been quieter and more truthful, the UB has been more lenient, etc.
9. There is, of course, no question of mourning. The Polish authorities and the Communists know very well what the real feelings of the Polish people are toward Stalin and the Soviet Union, but the numerous meetings (uroczyste akademje) which took place in Stalin's honor had never been as frequently attended as they were after his death because

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everyone wanted to hear once again, officially, that Stalin was really dead and that it was not just propaganda. Speakers at such meetings tried to give the impression of sadness in their speeches, but sometimes they found it impossible to do so, because of the happy atmosphere reigning among the spectators.

10. It is certain that the Communist rulers of Poland are greatly affected by Stalin's death since they do not know what the Soviet Union will do next. For the Polish population it is much more important to know what the Western powers will do, and especially how the United States will react. Rumors continue to circulate in Poland to the effect that Poland will once again be betrayed by the West. Persons who believe these rumors think that the Soviet Union, under pressure from the West, will end its occupation of Germany which will receive part of Western Poland, and that Poland and Czechoslovakia will be entirely absorbed into the Soviet Union. During and after the War, England was very popular in Poland, and Poles would have done anything for England without any questions, but since at least two years ago England has lost all support among Poles and instead great bitterness is felt as a result of England's passivity and appeasement of the USSR and Communism.

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